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Goats of Cashmeer.

Having received by the hands of a Friend, some late French Papers, which contain several articles of great interest, we have translated a few of the principal of them for our columns. Some of these being given under specific heads, and ascertaining rather to Literature than Politics, we give them in our Journal of to-day; others that are purely Political, or belong to the department of General News, we have reserved for a future occasion.

The following article on the Goats of Cashmeer, is one of the former description to which we allude, and will be read, we think, with as great an interest, at least, in India, as in Europe:—

In one of the French Papers, above mentioned is the following article, dated Astrakan, March 4th:—

"The different articles inserted in several of the Gazettes, relative to the *Goats of Cashmeer*, purchased by M. Jaubert, for the purpose of transporting them into France, profess to be derived from the most accurate information on this subject.—This is what they have produced.

On his arrival at Astrakan, M. Jaubert was at first anxious to collect precise notions as to the interior and exterior commerce of that city. His first intention was to direct his course, by the governments of Caucasus and Georgia, into the interior of Persia; but on combining all the obstacles that would attend such an expedition, and not hoping besides to derive from it any real advantage, he did not attempt to proceed above the line of the Caucasus.

At his return, he employed an American to purchase a flock of Goats from the Kerguis, a wandering tribe, and this man procured for him 1380. Monsieur Jaubert had them first conducted to Faganrog, to embark there; but the sea of Azoff being frozen, the flock was conducted to Theodosia.

From this relation, it evidently appears, that the Goats that have been seen at Mariupol are Goats of the Kirguis, and not Cashmerian."

On this article from Astrakan, the French Editor makes the following remarks:—

"We have much pleasure in announcing the success of M. Jernaux's enterprise, relative to the introduction of the Wool Goats of Cashmeer: nevertheless, as it is our duty to publish all communications derived from an authentic source, we could not refuse to insert this article, which was sent us by our private correspondent, and has appeared in the *Hamburg* and *Petersburgh* Papers.

The reputation of Mr. Jaubert, leads us to hope he would not suffer himself to be deceived. In re-perusing the details communicated by Mr. Ternaux to the Society of Encouragement, we find reason to believe, that Mr. Jaubert has distinguished amongst the common flocks of the Kirguis, some animals of the pure breed. These animals being originally from the North of the Caspian Sea, will not suffer from the coldness of our climate; but why have them brought by Sea? This mode of conveyance is unquestionably likely to aggravate the disorder to which the flock appears to be a prey. Out of 318 Goats landed at Marseilles, 215 have the mange."

In another French Paper, under the head of Paris, is the following article bearing on the same subject.

"The Wool Goats of Cashmeer, being arrived at Marseilles, where they are now disembarking them, the Public will read with a lively interest the details which Mr. Ternaux, Member of the Chamber of Deputies, has communicated to the Society of Encouragement, on this acquisition, so important to our manufactures.

M. Ternaux, having learnt from different travellers, that the Shahs of Persia have transported these animals with success from their native country, Thibet, into the eastern provinces of Persia;

from Great Bucharia to Kerman, conceived the idea of bringing them into France, to produce for us the means of keeping up the fabric of the Shawl, which should insure to our industry a tax upon European luxury.

Monsieur Amédée de Jaubert, Orientalist, and a distinguished Traveller, charged himself with the execution of this project; Monsieur the Duke of Richelieu declared himself the Patron of it, and the revered name of *Founder of Odessa*, produced in all the Russian provinces thro' which Mr. Jaubert had to pass, an universal benevolence, and procured for him all the assistance he required.

For a long time, however, Mr. Ternaux was without intelligence from Mr. Jaubert, and he only learnt his arrival on the shores of the Sea of Asoph, by the Newspapers.

"Since then" continues Mr. Ternaux, "what I have collected from the Correspondence of Mr. Jaubert is, that he was obliged to abandon 200 of these animals in the Steppes of Oural, and that besides these, he had drawn after him 17 carriages, laden with sick beasts; and what occasioned him the most trouble, however, was the miscarriages caused by fatigue, and by a frost of from 18 to 21 degrees, which the flock experienced; at length after braving hunger, thirst, and the wolves of the desert, thro' nations, half civilized, and performing a long journey by land, he had only to surmount the difficulties of a voyage by Sea; and that he had landed 568 animals, of which 240 are of the pure breed, 300 of the mixed breed, 6 sheep of Bucharia of the common wool, 4 kids, two of which were kidded on board, 7 female goats with young, and 7 he-goats.

It is said, that when these animals shall arrive in France, it will be necessary to take extraordinary care of the males, for upon that depends the hope of having a fine breed, and the success of that which is the principal object of the undertaking; that these animals which are vigorous but delicate, have neither the shape nor the repulsive smell of those of Europe, that they are capable of getting fifty females with young, in a year, and that in this respect they possess extraordinary energy; that as for the she goats, it is impossible to meet with animals more docile, more courageous, or more easy to conduct and nourish, but that they dread the cold, dirt, and the want of food.

By his preceding letters, he informs me that he had resolved to feed them with hay and oats, and that it appeared that every species of pasturage agreed with them."

We learn from Marseilles, that out of the 568 Goats sent into that city, 160 died on the voyage, but this loss is in a great measure supplied by the birth of young ones. The eight males are reduced to five, and the mange and the *tournis* make terrible ravages amongst them; but a Veterinary Surgeon has arrived at the Lazaretto of Marseilles to take care of them. Monsieur Jaubert still remains in the Crimea with the rest of the sick goats.

France will learn, with satisfaction, that this useful enterprise has succeeded, and she will award a just recompense to the man who has exerted himself for the interests of the common prosperity—a fortune acquired by honorable labours.

The following short paragraph literally serves to fill up the remainder of the page, and is drawn from the same source:—

A Chemist has found out one of the most precious and useful applications, which could be discovered by science. This discovery consists in a process which preserves bodies and animal substances from putrefaction, and even arrests its progress when it has commenced. The success of this invention has been confirmed by the experiments of the author of it, which have completely proved it, and which have been repeated by the Commissioners of the Academy of Sciences. Monsieur le Docteur Ledillot, has lately read to the Academy an extremely favorable report of the discovery. The vinegar of wood, rectified by a peculiar process is the mode of preservation, and the Inventor has made no mystery of the principal ingredient; he has only kept secret the rectification of the vinegar.

Fleeting of St. Andrew's at Allahabad.

The following account of the manner in which the Anniversary of St. Andrew's day was celebrated at Allahabad, has been transmitted to us by a friend who happened to be passing the station at the time, and was of course invited, to partake of the festivities which took place on that interesting occasion. There are two points in which we think the proceedings of the Meeting are particularly deserving of attention. The one is the admission of Ladies, a circumstance which will by some perhaps be deemed a kind of revolutionary innovation, but which we think must have been peculiarly gratifying to the spirit of the departed Saint. The other is a proposal made by Dr. Tytler, for affording pecuniary relief to the distressed labourers and manufacturers of his native country, by means of a contribution to be raised amongst those who still recollect with tender affection the land in which they first drew their breath, and passed their earlier years of infancy and youth. This benevolent proposition we are inclined to think must have been the consequence of some suggestion from the fair visitors who graced the festive board with their presence—for however high an opinion we may entertain of the gentleman who proposed the miseries of those who are pining at home in want and wretchedness, as a fit subject for the consideration of such of their countrymen as may be blessed with affluence and the full enjoyment of every comfort in India, we still think that so divine a sentiment must have been whispered in his ear by some fair female, whom the invisible hand of St. Andrew had perhaps placed in a convenient situation for that purpose; for had this not been the case, why did not the same idea occur to his votaries at their late convivial Meeting in Calcutta? The answer is evident. The Ladies were not there—and the Gentlemen, as a natural consequence, though they talked a great deal, performed nothing. We are certain however of one thing, that the instant the intentions of the Allahabad Meeting are presented, in what ministers would call a tangible form, to the eyes of our fair females in Calcutta, the tenderest emotions of their hearts will be awakened; and though Allahabad may have just reason to glory in having been the birth place of so generous a sentiment, the Presidency alone will claim the honor of carrying it effectually into execution.

‘Allahabad, 2d December, 1819.

‘The party was given in the Court of Circuit Bangalow, on the evening of the 30th ultimo, by subscription of the Sons of Caledonia, ten in number, to all who happened to be at the station; who assembled to the number of upwards of sixty, among whom were fifteen or sixteen Ladies. Captain Grahame of the Artillery was in the chair, which he ably filled.—Dr. Bannatyne McLeod Vice President, which office he also ably discharged. The Stewards were Captain McQuhae, Artillery—Lieutenant McKinnon, 21st Regiment N. I. and Mr. Grant, Assistant Surgeon, 4th Regiment N. I. The dinner, and wines, &c. were excellent, and did great credit to the exertions of those under whom the arrangements were completed. After the toasts in the following order—The pious memory of St. Andrew—The King—Prince Regent—Land of Cakes—Duke of York and the Army—Duke of Clarence and the Navy—the Ladies retired, and the toasts proceeded—the Honorable Company—the Marquis of Hastings.

When this last toast was given, Dr. TYTLER rose, and to the best of my remembrance, spoke to the following effect—He had hoped some one better qualified for the task would have presented himself upon the occasion. But since this was not the case, unaccustomed as he was to public speaking—and little able to sustain the part of the Orator in so numerous and respectable an assemblage, he could not refrain offering himself to the Meeting, as the name of HASTINGS, was a toast which ought not, at any Meeting convened by Scotchmen, whose lives were intimately associated with freedom, and their distinguishing characteristic manly independence of sentiment, and more particularly at the first public Meeting of the Sons of St. Andrew at Allahabad, to be passed over in silence, or greeted only with the common cheers which succeeded to toasts of a more ordinary description.

It was with peculiar gratification, he had seen this Meeting, a circumstance he had hitherto been unaccustomed to witness, graced with the presence of our fair countrywomen, and trusted that the example thus set by the Ladies of Allahabad would be followed at other stations in this country. Such an assembly was peculiarly adapted for a Meeting at which the health of the illustrious man was drunk whose name he had just repeated. For, to whom could the Soldier look for the reward of his toils, but in the smiles and approbation of the fair. It was the hopes of obtaining their applause that incited

men in civilized countries, in all ages to meet the most imminent perils for the defence of their country, and preservation of their freedom. For it was only seraphic love that could soften the rugged features of the stern and sanguinary front of war. The victorious return of David, was heralded by the triumphant shouts of the Damascites of Israel, who with timbrels and dances announced that ‘Saul had slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands;’—it was a Spartan mother who delivered her son a shield with this injunction, when he marched against the enemies of his country ‘to return with it, or return upon it.’ It was the praises and counsels of women, which in the progress of the great city of Rome, in her brightest days, in the days of the rising commonwealth, when she was the nurse of freedom, that incited her devoted heroes to their most glorious actions. It was the desire of obtaining the approbation of his mother that inspired Coriolanus, to rescue his country from the inroads of its enemies. In later years in our own country, it was the custom, during the heroic days of Chivalry, for the trophy of victory to be placed upon the brows of the conqueror, by the most beautiful amongst the fair. It was even in the present age, that to the care bestowed upon the education of her son, we were indebted to his mother, for the expanded mind and all conquering genius of Wellington. It was therefore peculiarly proper that Ladies should honour with their presence an assembly, where the health of the great Soldier of India was drunk, he who was the theme of every tongue—who equally merited and received the admiration of the blooming virgin—and the benedictions of the venerable matron.

But in attending to the Noble Marquis's high military character, it was not his intention to detain the company by entering into details respecting the events of the late glorious campaign;—that would be merely to pronounce a panegyric, a task to which he was unequal, and they were known to all. Suffice it to say, that in those memorable achievements, the well earned fame of the Indian Army, had been carried to its highest pinnacle of glory.—For it was in that campaign we had witnessed *Stanton's* unparalleled defence, and *Fitzgerald's* matchless attack—an act of daring and successful valour to which he could find no equal, unless it might be asserted in the instance of *Cortes* who attacked with a handful of men the assembled thousands of Mexico, and seized the Imperial standard of *Montezuma*. His Lordship in the short course of a few months had accomplished more for India,—and gained greater victories, and established a more extended dominion, than *Aurungzebe*, and the list of preceding conquerors in the lapse of many years. It was the present illustrious Hastings who completed the fabric, the base of which had only been founded by the former *Hastings*. It was in the days of our present noble Ruler that the British flag waved from the centre of *Ceylon* to the confines of *China*, and from the *Indus* to the *Burrumpoota*. But there remained a feature in his Lordship's achievements which distinguished them from the deeds of all other conquerors, as much as this *Great Man* was himself distinguished from all other men. He meant the *liberality* of the Noble Marquis's Government, (*hear, hear.*) While the actions of other warriors too frequently led to despotism, the battles fought under the auspices of the Marquis of Hastings had led immediately to freedom, (*hear, hear,*) and the same voice which proclaimed peace to Indian Asia, almost immediately after, gave us the inestimable boon, that led us to know we were the subjects of a free state, the glorious, the INVALUABLE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS, (*hear and applause.*)

It was for this reason he had no hesitation in classing His Lordship's achievements in a rank, great as they were, far higher than those of His Grace of Wellington. That Gallant Duke had sent the tyrant who threatened the liberties of Europe to be chained Prometheus-like, on his iron bound rock, never to rise again. But the almost immediate consequence of the victory of Waterloo, was the suspension of the habeas corpus act, and discontent in Great Britain. But through the din, the flames, and thunder of the war, the lofty mind of Marquis Hastings, saw beyond the reach of ordinary and contracted calculators. He perceived the peace, the happiness, the freedom of millions,—he spoke the word and it was done. Like a presiding genius he stilled the waves of the tumultuous ocean; he gave an Empire to Britain, and peace and liberty to India. It had been said in England what would be the result of his Lordship's campaigns? we had seen the result in the measures that his administration was now effecting; in the freedom which his liberality had given us, and the tranquillity which India enjoyed. It ought never to be forgotten that it was under Marquis of Hastings' administration, the Free Trade had been given to India, and this vast country opened as an outlet to the labours of our manufacturers. These were the gratifying facts upon which future historians would delight to dwell, this was the picture they would be pleased in drawing, and in placing Marquis of Hastings as a successful General amongst the renowned warriors of antiquity, they would confer on him, who had not waded to glory through the hearts of widows, nor his honest laurels been

bedewed with the tears of orphans, a higher, a brighter station in the temple of unsullied Fame, they would place his trophies along with the never fading garlands which adorn the illustrious brows of those memorable men, who have obtained, the inestimable title of *Patres Patriæ*. The fathers, the benefactors of their Country, the worthiest title that can be conferred by a grateful nation, upon a noble Citizen entrusted with legitimate power under a free Constitution." (applause.)

The Vice-President then proposed The health of Sir W. Wallace, whom he characterised as "a Man—a Hero—who had fought, who had bled, who had died for his Country." This was succeeded by The health of King Robert Bruce, "one of the earliest and best of the Scottish Kings." The Heroes of Bannock Burn, Ossian the Bard of Scotland fifteen hundred years ago—John Knox the Reformer of the Kirk of Scotland; and several other national toasts which were drunk with enthusiasm, and preceded by appropriate speeches. The health of General Marley, for the honour he had conferred upon the Sons of St. Andrew, by attending the Meeting, was replied to, in a neat, eloquent, and impressive speech, full of expressions of acknowledgments for the honor done to him in drinking his health. The Ladies and the Sons of St. George, St. Patrick, and St. David, who were present, were drunk with repeated cheers. The health of the immortal Wellington and the Heroes of Waterloo, was drunk with huzzas, and the band playing the British Grenadiers round the room. The health of General Graham, Lord Lyndoch, as also The health of the Marchioness of Hastings; also a young Scotchman "upon whom, the Vice President observed, the eyes of his countrymen were turned," Lord Macklin in Scotland, and Rawdon in England.

After these toasts, Lieut. McKinnon, one of the Stewards, in an eloquent address, presented himself to the Meeting, and proposed The health of Dr. Tyler, which was drunk. In returning thanks, the Doctor observed, that being overwhelmed with the honour, he had so unmeritedly received, it was not surprising he should be at a loss for words in which to express his feelings. There was only one mode in which he felt he could make an adequate return to his countrymen there assembled, and was happy he had the opportunity of making the proposal in the presence of the Sons of St. George, St. Patrick, and St. David, who had honoured them with their company; he was proud to say he was a Scotchman, and wore old Scotia's thistle in his breast; but the thistle of *Caledonia* had never bloomed more lovely than in union with the roses of England—the Shamrocks of Ireland—and the leeks of Wales. The last Newspapers had communicated the dreadful distresses experienced by our suffering manufacturers and labourers in Scotland, who in order to obtain the common means of subsistence were emigrating from their country to seek shelter in the wilds of America. It was by these melancholy emigrations that the strength, the blood, the sinews of our country were wasted and destroyed. The cries of the afflictions endured by our countrymen had been wafted on the wings of the wind to the shores of India, and had reached the interior of the country. He should therefore consider himself as a most unworthy Son of St. Andrew, and degenerate Scotchman, were he in such a company to remain silent upon this subject—to revel amidst luxury, quaffing his wine in comfort, and at the same time turn a deaf ear to the sorrows of his countrymen, he therefore proposed—that a subscription (here Captain Dunlop apologized for interruption—but proposed that every Scotchman should contribute for the relief of the labouring and manufacturing classes in Scotland one month's pay.)—The Doctor thanked Captain Dunlop, for his anticipation and proceeded—that upwards of two years ago, at the suggestion of a worthy Son of Erin, he had proposed in one of the Calcutta Papers, the *Oriental Star*, under the signature of *Patriotism*, that every Briton in India should deposit one month's pay, for the relief of his suffering countrymen, but this plan had been overlooked; he now, however, begged to propose that this sum, or one to be determined hereafter, be subscribed by the sons of St. Andrew present, for the purpose mentioned, and the proposal submitted for the consideration and approbation of all natives of Scotland under the Bengal Presidency. After trespassing upon the time of the company so long, he begged to return his grateful thanks for the attention which had been bestowed upon the proposal he had done himself the honour to make; and then sat down.

The health of the President was then drunk, and the gentlemen retired to the Ladies, where the merry dance was kept up till near one o'clock, when the supper was announced, and after the Ladies withdrew, many toasts were given, speeches made, and songs sung, with the utmost conviviality, and this happy meeting, truly characteristic of the feelings and hospitality of Scotchmen, terminated, as the beams of the early sun ushered in the morn of the 1st of December, and the songs of chivalric, and the brazen voice of the cannon, from the Fort, warned the jovial party that it was time to separate." (Mir.

Female Infanticide Denied

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

I observe in your Journal of the 2nd instant, an extract from the 15th Number of *The Friend of India*, wherein the inhabitants of those mountainous districts, which were the theatre of our late war with Nepal, are accused of practising *Female Infanticide*, a crime of which I do not believe they have hitherto been suspected.

It may appear presumptuous to question their guilt in defiance of the evidence brought forward to prove its existence, by authorities so respectable for acuteness and judgment; as I believe those gentlemen to be whose names are given; but when the possibility of error is so considerable, as must be the case when truth is to be extracted from sources so polluted; and information of such questionable accuracy as that country and people afford; when the observations of not less anxious though perhaps less able enquirers have given no reason even to entertain such a suspicion; and when above all it is in question to brand a large population with the habitual commission of so revolting and atrocious a crime, it seems excusable even in the face of such evidence to pause and deliberate ere a final opinion be formed.

There are, however, other and pretty good grounds for doubting that Infanticide is customary among these people, which will probably be allowed their force against any thing but the best established facts, and those not solitary instances, but proved to apply generally to the large tract in question. The strongest motives of self-interest oppose such a practice: women are valuable property there; labour, as in all thinly inhabited countries is much in demand, and women are at least equally employed with the men in agricultural operations, many of which are performed entirely by them. Women are moreover productive to their parents when they become marriageable, for no husband or husbands obtain his or their wives without the payment of a certain adequate sum; finally both male and female children are highly valuable, and at all ages, for sale as slaves.

In proof of these facts, I appeal to the gentlemen whose names are quoted by *The Friend of India*, and to all who have travelled in the country: every one must have seen in various parts of it the women engaged in agricultural labours, in hoeing and weeding the fields, reaping the corn, in guiding the bullocks that tread it out of the ear, in separating it from the husk, and various other similar duties: every one must have heard that the father receives a certain sum in proportion to the means of the parties, from the husband or husbands of his marriageable daughter, and surely no one can have passed through these regions without coming to the knowledge of that melancholy fact, that its sons and daughters are sold to slavery in great numbers. The inhabitants of all the upper Provinces, particularly close to the hills, well know that slaves form a chief branch of trade with the hills, and are in great request in all native families, though now perhaps the traffic has in some degree been checked by the decided declarations of its illegality by the British Government. Under 12 years of the *Ghoorka* war, it is well known, that Gurkhal alone, had more than 2 lacs of its inhabitants torn away by their conquerors and sold for slaves:—and such was the grinding nature of their rule, that many heads of families were constrained after stripping themselves of all their means of living, to sell one after another of his children, to procure food for the rest, and exchange them for inadequate prices to discharge the heavy exactions imposed by the collectors of these tyrants.

Where indiscriminate Infanticide prevails, I believe its origin may generally be traced to the difficulty of procuring subsistence for a family; when it is confined to the murder of the female offspring, it usually originates in a very different source, an extravagant and savage idea of family honour as connected with female delicacy.

I do not think the causes of the first and more sweeping crime have any considerable operation in the country in question; not that I would assert that the means of subsistence are easily procured, or exist at present in abundance; but, as is the case in most thinly inhabited countries, though very poor, the necessities of life may be had by the application of a certain portion of labour: the field is not fully preoccupied as in countries thickly peopled; where labour is so cheap as to be hardly in demand from the over-abundance of men; here it is valuable, and an individual may always find the means of subsistence for himself and for a family, the members of which very speedily become of use—the people thinly sprinkle the land, and cultivation is proportionably scarce, there is therefore much unoccupied ground, the quality of which is good, though considerable labour is required to fit it for agricultural purposes. It is not here, then, we may presume, that Infanticide is likely to prevail; it is

only where population is so dense, and competition so great, that men cannot procure subsistence in return for their labour, that the struggles for existence drown the feelings of nature, and the helpless and useless are sacrificed at their birth.

In traversing their country, there certainly did not appear to be any want of the absolute necessities of life; no wretched starving objects appeared imploring charity—there was none of that extremity of misery which is found in abundance in every populous country, and increases in more than proportion, according to its density of population; there was in fact, where the Ghorka tyranny had pressed less heavily, a greater degree of real comfort than certain countries can boast of similarly featured and situated in many respects, but less favoured in point of climate, and where certainly the crime of Infanticide was never suspected to exist.

If the above observations tend at all to invalidate the suspicion of indiscriminate Infanticide, that of Female Infanticide in particular seems still more unfounded: here unhappily, no delicate feeling of female honour has existence; female chastity is, in fact, unknown and unpractised, for it is in no estimation; indeed their other habits are entirely at variance with it. Certainly no female infant loses its life from any uneasiness regarding its future virtue or honour, or that of the family as connected with it.

There is still another argument which makes strongly against the existence of Female Infanticide. There is no doubt whatever that Polyandry is universally practised throughout the countries in question; that this should be a matter of choice, seems totally unnatural, and men do not depart from the usual and strongest dictates of nature, unless under the influence of some very cogent necessity. Poverty forms at least, a part of this ruling influence: it has before been said that the father makes a property of his daughters, and few individuals are rich enough to pay down the price required for the full and sole possession of a wife; several persons therefore were probably at first compelled by necessity to club for a common spouse, and custom, into which the expedient soon degenerated, divested it gradually of its disgusting loathsomeness, and made it common as it now is; but as the exorbitant value of wives may be supposed to have arisen in some degree at least from their scarcity, is it to be supposed, even if the father got rid of the feelings of nature, and all motives of self-interest, that the natural impulse of animal passion, would be so easily subdued among the people, as to allow them to adopt a practice that destroyed in the most unprofitable way possible, the females, while the male population were suffering from their deficiency. It is repugnant to the simplest, the best established, and most powerful principles of human action, and we may well pause ere we grant it credence.

I believe, Sir, that every one who has travelled in the countries in question, will admit the truth of what has been above advanced; and I think it will appear, that all analogy, and every argument founded on the acknowledged propensities of our nature, combine to demonstrate the improbability at least, that Infanticide should exist there as a national practice, and the arguments against the existence of Female Infanticide, in particular, are if possible stronger and more conclusive. If we examine too the grounds on which the facts adduced in support of the charge have their sole foundation, I think, we may venture on them alone, to hesitate in granting our belief. The people of the small state to which alone the facts refer, (Joobul), are in common with most of the inhabitants of these hilly regions, unhappily quite unacquainted with sincerity or truth in any of their relations, and it is difficult to say in any case what credit is due to their information; they have always been notoriously averse to give any to be depended on regarding the cultivation or population of the country, dreading that such is only required for the purpose of imposing some tax, experience has, perhaps taught them this caution; with the cunning of savages and Asiatics, they perceive the drift of enquiries urged frequently on one subject, and quickly discover and deliver the answers which they find most pleasing to the enquirer; if therefore he enters on the subject with a mind impressed in favor of any particular theory or hypothesis, it is not at all unlikely that he may collect enough to strengthen his opinion, while the truth may be far otherwise, and the tendency of the human mind to force into its service, the most simple and trifling facts, as confirmation strong, in support of a favorite idea, is but too well known.

It is very far from my intention to question the general accuracy and acuteness of these gentlemen as observers of the country, but may not some such favorite child of the imagination have led them thus astray? how the suspicion of the custom in question first arose, is not mentioned; if they learnt its existence accidentally before the suspicion was entertained, it would certainly add a degree of weight to the proofs brought forward in its support, which I think it may be admitted they would not have in a contrary

case. They will forgive the doubts now expressed, when they learn, that in the course of a pretty long stay in the family, during which an anxious enquiry into its manners and customs, with considerable facilities for the purpose, produced a tolerable degree of intimacy with its inhabitants, no such fact was ever hinted at or surmised, the idea even never arose.

That females may be scarce in the country I believe, though it did not appear so strongly or so much as the statistical facts related declare; while making the inquiries suggested by the prevalence of that most extraordinary custom, a plurality of husbands, we were continually induced to ask what became of the surplus females, but the question was never satisfactorily answered in general; it was said, they remained in the house of their father, assisting in agricultural labours, but we never heard a complaint of a paucity of females, or an assertion that it was occasioned by their murder when infants. It may speak little for the observation of the party, but the great disproportion between the sexes was so little obvious as not to challenge attention; we are in fact so little in the habit of seeing females in the east, that their absence is not apt to strike the observer. It is worthy of remark, that the whole of the villages of which the respective population is given, are contained in Joobul, a small state, and comparatively a very small portion of the hilly country in question, how far it may be a fair sample of the rest is uncertain, but in its present insulated state, unsupported by further statistical information, it may be fair to doubt how far the proportion of its population exhibiting so strange an anomaly, should be taken for that of the country in general. We are however at best left in a dilemma; either the female population is small in proportion to the male, or it is not; and in the latter case there must be a large surplus of females to account for, and what becomes of these? why are they not the wives of the men who abound and are forced to divide their interest in the same female?

Were I to hazard an opinion on this subject, which I am far from qualified to do, it would be that we are to look to the practice of selling their children for much of that defalcation that appears; these slaves are in great request all over Upper India, and the females are more so than males. I own however that it seems insufficient entirely to account for the disproportion that is supposed to exist between the sexes.

Though *The Friend of India* in this paper exclaims against a crime of which these people may in fact be innocent, he will find I fear enough to lament in the moral character of these unhappy people, which is in fact depraved in a dreadful degree: that the nearer influence of the British Government, and the occasional intercourse they enjoy with individuals of the nation may give rise to some amelioration, is probable, though not so certain as it is desirable; the countries in question are still under their own Governments, and I believe but little under British control, further than in a political point of view; example may do something, and we may hope the best; but it is mortifying to observe, how little has been done towards the correction of moral evil, even where the power and influence of our Government is unrivalled and unlimited.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

A. B.

Dec. 5, 1819.

Queries for Solution.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

I should be obliged to your Military Readers to give me information on the following points.

1st.—Does Official Rank in the East India Company's Army, such as that which is given to the Adjutant General, Quarter Master General, and Military Secretary to Government, when not Lieutenant Colonels in the Army, confer a right to command, as well as to precedence, over all Officers not being Lieutenant Colonels? or, is it merely Titular? *Vox et præterea nihil.*

2nd. Are Officers serving on the Staff, as Brigadier Generals, entitled to command all Colonels not being Brigadier Generals?

In Controversies, Nov. 25, 1819.

Your's, &c.

RUSTICUS.

Military Query.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

Among your numerous and intelligent Military Correspondents, I may perhaps hope for a solution of the following interesting and important Query:

What is the Maximum of Punishment that a Court Martial—other than a General Court Martial—can award?

Central India, November 20, 1819.

QUESTOR.

Courts Martial,

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR, I send you a Letter on Courts Martial, as it may be interesting to many who have read, as well as to others who have lately written in your Journal on the subject. It may be found, by referring to the Pamphleteer, No. 27, for April 1819; and will doubtless be read by him who has paid such minute attention to the subject, as our beloved Commander in Chief has invariably done, and who has on every occasion, since we have had the happiness to enjoy his fatherly protection and consummate wisdom, evinced an unbiassed discrimination between charges which have been preferred from personal malice, and those which have arisen out of a pure regard to public duty.

I am, Sir,

Your constant Reader,

W. P. M.

Calcutta, Dec. 15. 1819.

A Letter to Admiral Sir Isaac Coffin, Bart. K. B. on the inadequacy of Courts Martial, in their present form, to purposes of Justice.—By an Officer.—London, 1819.

SIR,

When the Mutiny Bill for the present year was before Parliament, you justly reprobated the practice of delay in promulgating the judgements of Courts Martial. This practice is doubtless in itself, a serious evil; but it is one amongst others, of far greater magnitude. It is of little consequence how long sentence is concealed, where few hopes of justice can be indulged. As your attention has evidently been directed to the subject, I shall make no apology for here addressing to you, some observations on the constitution of the Military Tribunals of Great Britain.

I can scarcely suppose, that the more glaring defects of the system have escaped your notice, though you chose only to touch upon a minor inconvenience. There are, indeed, few professional men of either service, who understand the least of military law, and who do not condemn the administration of it; but the public have not the same opportunities of information; and for them, do I chiefly intend an attempt to expose the total inadequacy of Courts Martial in their present form, to purposes of justice.

Military law is intended for the cognizance of offences in the service, which are of too much importance to be left to the uncontrolled judgment of individuals, whatever be their rank—it should give redress to the oppressed, as well as punishment to the guilty; and in proportion as the rights of the citizen are laid aside by the necessity of submission to military authority, should the abuse of that power be watched over with jealousy, and met with severity. Where command is so likely to lead to tyranny, there should be afforded a ready appeal against it. The punishment of frivolous complaints will always be sufficient to prevent their frequency; but unless the Court, to which a case of injury is referred, be so composed as to promise redress, oppression will ever be triumphant.

There are occasions, too, where Courts Martial are the only guards of reputation and personal honor—where there is placed in their hands something dearer to the soldier than life. The enthusiastic spirit with which a youth enters the service, the high hopes and dreams of preformment, are soon chilled in the pursuit of a profession fruitful in disappointment; but when these feelings are gone, there is yet left the same early jealousy of character which a breath may tarnish, and which to question, is almost to destroy. Reputation is the Officer's only possession; his existence as a Soldier, his happiness as a Man, are staked upon it. How then should it be guarded? Should he not be enabled to turn with proud confidence from censure or suspicion, to the ordeal of a Court Martial? Should it not be such a tribunal as will assure him that no power or influence can bias its decision to his ruin? I will prove, that wherever oppression is to be defended or character destroyed—wherever the weight of rank and authority is against the accused, the present construction of our Military Courts renders them a frightful engine for the support and justification of misrule! To do this, it will only be necessary to state the composition of a General Court Martial, and to shew how susceptible, by the form of trial, every part of it is, of being turned to the worst purposes.

A General Court Martial is composed of a president, not less than twelve members, and a judge advocate, usually, and always in cases of importance, a legal character. As he is, though without a declared voice in their decision, unquestionably the person of most consequence in the court, let me first describe his functions and duties. Military men are supposed not to be very deeply versed in questions of jurisprudence: he is therefore to direct the court on all occasions of law, evidence, practice, or precedent, and he has the privilege,

if they do not receive his advice, of entering a protest on the minutes against their opinion. When a disputed point of procedure is to be determined, the court is cleared: that is, the prisoner and strangers are removed. The judge advocate, who is prosecutor whenever the charges are brought by authority, is then left with whatever stock of legal sophistry he may happen to possess, to persuade the court at his leisure. He also himself pleads against the prisoner, who may not reply, or examine witnesses by counsel; and he is permitted to address the court last. In civil tribunals, however a corrupt judge may brow-beat, juries are not easily intimidated; nor is it frequently that any of their number could suffer from the discovery of his opinion even were such a judge allowed to be closeted with them. But in a military court it is widely different: the members give their vote under the eye of the president, the youngest first. In such a situation if they perceive that it is a government prosecution, will most men hesitate between the sacrifice of their professional prospects their consequent ruin, and a desire to do justice to an individual? I fear not frequently.

After this brief sketch of the nature of a Court Martial, I shall, for the sake of illustration, suppose an instance where it might be the object of those in authority, whether for political or other motives, to procure the fall of an officer, innocent or guilty. Such an instance may occur in this country, however, remote the danger can be considered, whenever a corrupt government, in pursuit of despotism, shall choose to employ this ready instrument against any individual in the service who is known to be hostile to their schemes. But it has very frequently happened, and will often be found to occur abroad, where such a court is always liable to be misused with success by whoever is in power: it is consequently there most to be dreaded.

I firmly believe, that as long as the present illustrious Commander in Chief is at the head of the army, the defects of our military judicatures will not with his consent be directed to improper purposes. The Duke of York's justice and impartiality are well known: where his efforts can extend, oppression will never be tolerated. He has well earned a title as the "soldier's friend," which will not easily perish, for it is engraven on the heart of the widow and the orphan. Little weight can attach to the applause or censure of an unknown individual, but I gladly seize an occasion of paying this humble tribute where it is so well merited. It is at least sincere, since no advantage can be gained, no imputation of flattery will rest. But it is of small avail that the waters are pure at the fountain head, if the stream be polluted in its course. However the exertions of a commander-in-chief in England may be used for the promotion of equity, opportunities of injustice will never be wanting to the military governors of our foreign possessions, as long as the present administration of martial law is in force. The influence of public judgement alone is always at home a great safeguard against glaring oppression; but it is abroad that the tendency of bad laws is so peculiarly dangerous, where tyranny is controlled by no public voice, by no censorship of popular opinion. It is then the character may be blasted before redress can be sought, and the bitter mockery of justice played to give a coloring of law to the will of an individual in power. Let me proceed to suppose that a commander in a foreign station, from whatever motive, may be base enough to desire the ruin of an officer. It may be, as occurred with the unhappy Byng on a wider theatre, to cover his own faults by the sacrifice of a subordinate person; it may proceed from private enmity; from the opposition given to his measures by this officer; in short from as many causes as there are passions in the human heart. Let us examine what facility the composition of courts martial will afford him in the execution of his scheme. When the plot is meditated, the object against whom it is intended, must be extremely prudent, or rather astonishingly fortunate, if he does not give the show of an occasion for some charge or other against him. This will be best understood by those who see most of the profession. The superior will then be careful to select some man with a knowledge of law; and no principle of rectitude, to prevent his applying it to unworthy ends. Every one acquainted with our colonies must know, that such men are to be found there; the refuge of the attorney's den in the mother country. He will call this person Judge Advocate, and he is thus constituted prosecutor ex-officio. He will next choose his president, either an officer ready to do whatever he is ordered without scruple of conscience; or weak enough to be cajoled by the Judge Advocate: there is no want of either description in the service. Having laid this notable foundation, he may erect the edifice as he pleases. Should the business be very glaring, it will be well to have a few trusty members, but generally between the browbeating of the president, and the unopposed sophistry of the judge advocate, not many of the court will have hardihood enough to draw vengeance upon themselves by fruitless exertions in the cause of innocence, or perhaps acuteness enough to detect the plot. The proceedings are opened; the judge advocate harangues, calls his witnesses; if they

are perjured, or interested, the prisoner, not allowed to cross, examine by counsel, will have difficulty in exposing them. The prisoner next enters on his reply to the accusation the inequality of a contest between the attack of one who is accustomed to use his weapons, and the man who takes them up for the first time, is sufficiently evident. If the prisoner reads an address which has been drawn up for him, for he cannot answer by counsel, the effect must be languid. Should he happen to be a man of brilliant natural talents and flow of language, he might indeed be able to contend with the Judge Advocate, if to condemn were not the intention of the court. Such advantages even then, could be the lot of but few, and laws should be made for all. When the defence is concluded, and the prosecution has enjoyed the benefit of leaving the last impression, the prisoner withdraws, the court is cleared, but the Judge Advocate remains, that he may keep them in the right path for his master. The result need not be told; it has often been seen in the ruin of merit and high professional distinction, can common sense be blinded by calling such a farce justice? Can the nation entrust the honor of her soldier to such a tribunal as this? There is almost evidence enough to warrant the supposition, without departure from charity that the system was first used, and is still retained, as a well contrived machine, to undermine in the dark, that which cannot be destroyed in the light of day. If such was not the intention of the formation, it is the duty of the legislature to see that it be not the practice.

I have now, Sir, drawn a very faint sketch of the evils to which he is exposed who must trust his honor, his hopes or interests, to the guardianship of a court martial. Were the picture from a skilful hand, the effect would be infinitely more striking. If it now wants perfect resemblance to the original, it is only because it is deficient in strength: the outline is correct. I have stated nothing but the truth, and being unbiassed by any particular feeling, have drawn no forced inferences, I challenge denial to any of the facts which I have advanced, or the conclusions I have formed.

After an exposure of the faults of a system, it may naturally be demanded, how it is proposed to remove evils which are so readily discovered. To explain what is wrong, is always less difficult than to declare the remedy. I confess that at first sight, it does not appear very easy of attainment, to render Military Courts fully adequate to the pure administration of justice, without at the same time loading them with the weight of legal forms, which embarrass and delay our civil judicature. Simplicity and dispatch are so necessary in Courts Martial that they are secondary only to the great object of justice; and their union with it, forms the desideratum of Military Law. Yet I am convinced, that it is only by approximating the form of Military trial to the constitution of civil tribunals, that we can hope to accomplish the ends desired; and on examining the subject it will be found, that the intricacies and tardiness of English Courts of law are generally attributable only to the number and wide variety of the points which they have to determine, and that they certainly do not at all arise from the manner in which the courts themselves are composed. I am particular in advancing this obvious remark, because the proposal of introducing trial by jury into Courts Martial will, I know, be received by some men in the profession as if it must necessarily be attended with all the objections and inconveniences that have ever been felt or complained of in the "glorious uncertainty of the law." The fact however is, that until the cases which a Military Court is required to judge, shall become as numerous as those which swell the common law of England, instead of being confined to but few, the fears of those gentlemen are groundless. The basis of the plan I shall offer, to render Courts Martial calculated for the fair judgment of appeal against tyranny, will be trial by jury; and this, while it affords protection to the oppressed, will not be the less vigorous in its operations against the guilty. I shall as concisely as possible state the ideas which I have formed of the constitution that might be given to our Military tribunals; bearing in mind, that in subservience to the great end of all legal trials, velocity of determination and simplicity of proceeding are here to be considered as most important. I would have three officers of equal rank, with analogous powers in Courts Martial to those possessed by the Judges; of course appointed only for the occasion. The dignity of the Court might rest with them, but the innocence or guilt of the prisoner should be entrusted to the hands of a jury of twelve officers, each as nearly as possible of the same rank with him. He should have a similar right of challenge as in civil law. This jury might choose three foremen by lot, and when they retire to pass verdict, the safest proceeding for themselves generally, and the prisoner would be to give their votes by ballot. Justice to the prisoner would thus be secured; and I do not know that unanimity would be necessary for his conviction; three fourths of the members might be sufficient; but it should never be permitted to the Judges to send the jury back to amend their opinion. Let the Judge Advocate be retained, but allow the prisoner to plead and examine witnesses by counsel, and the former will be no more dangerous than the

Attorney-general of Civil Courts. In fine judgment should be pronounced openly and immediately. The suspense, which is frequently a severer punishment than the sentence itself, and on which you, Sir, expressed the opinion it merited, would then be spared.

Now I contend that some such plan as this, would answer all the ends of justice. It would be as simple in its form, as expeditious in its operations, as forcible in the punishment of crime, as the present system. That it is infinitely preferable to it as a protection from the abuse of power, will be evident. The appointment of three superior officers to sit as a Court is necessary to the dignity of trial; and however hostile they may be to the prisoner, from the manner of selecting them, their influence will never be sufficient to deter the jury from doing their duty since the particular vote of any of the twelve can never be known. The jury unshackled by the dread of power which they could not resist, will give their verdict according to their conscience; and by extending the right of challenge to the accused, no one will be left of their number, who is come prepared to condemn. The prisoner placed on a par with the prosecution, by the privilege of pleading through Counsel, will be fairly judged. According to his deserts; the jury will not have the judge advocate at their elbow to control and bias their judgment: the advantages of an open verdict need not be dwelt upon; it is demanded by every principle of equity; I may however expect to hear an objection to it, which is as easily refuted as advanced. It will be said, that by immediately declaring the sentence, the prerogative of the Crown of confirming or rejecting it, is interfered with: this is a fallacy. The crown has in all cases the power of dispensing with the further services of an individual: this power may be exerted without even assigning a cause, and subject only to the construction which public opinion will give to the act. As long as this exists, the due authority of government can never be weakened by any form of trial; but if a Military Court has an avowed object, that object can only be pure justice. The Crown has a right to decline the service of any officer without the shadow of a trial; but none to blast his character by a mock investigation. Let us not then hear of the prerogative of the Crown where justice is concerned. If Courts Martial are necessary at all, they are as Courts of Equity; and the moment the weight of the Crown is employed in them they cease to be such.

From this I am led to the consideration of another part of the subject, how far the construction of Courts Martial which I have suggested, will answer for the trial of the private soldier. I am not quite prepared to say, that some modification of the proposed plan may not here be necessary. I have already observed that the acknowledged power of the Crown to dismiss its servants, always enables government to mark its displeasure by exerting the right. Perhaps it would not be safe to disturb this right, however arbitrary in principle: but the existence of it destroys the shadow of a plea for refusing to officers the greatest freedom of trial, whenever legal investigation may be resorted to. It can never be asserted with the show of truth, that discipline will be weakened by any form given to Courts Martial, as long as the crown may without explanation dispense with the further services of an officer, and thus remove the support which he derives from the profession. With the private soldier, however, the case is far otherwise; discharge is to him a boon not a punishment. As therefore it is only by sentence of a Court Martial, that he is tangible for serious crimes, the discipline and subordination so necessary in the service, might be somewhat endangered by leaving the determination of his guilt or innocence in the hands of twelve of his own class. The jury in such Courts Martial should therefore in no case be below the rank of non-commissioned officers. I am not ignorant that this assertion may give rise to the imputation of denying that freedom of justice to the soldier which I am so anxious to gain for the officer; but their situation is not similar. I have shown how seriously the latter may be punished without trial; the former cannot. The soldier is liable only to be brought before a Court for specific crimes where the proof or disproof is easy; the sphere of his duties is so limited, that when he departs from it, his fault must be glaring. How different with the officer! and above all, the officer of rank! I am satisfied that the cause of the private will be safe with a jury of non-commissioned officers, who are men with the same feelings and ideas as himself, of good character, and able to distinguish the right from the wrong.

Such then, Sir, are the alterations I would propose in Courts Martial; whether they will be deemed practicable as a remedy for the deficiencies of which I have complained, I know not. I shall, however, rest satisfied, if by directing public attention to the subject, any other amendment shall arise to put an end to the anomaly, that the constitutional defenders of the liberties and independence of a free country are alone out of the pale of the rights which they guard for their fellow-citizens.

I have the honor to be,

Yours &c. &c. &c.

Proposed Military Fund.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR, Will you do me the favor to give the accompanying General Statement of the probable amount of the Funds, (at the end of eighteen months after its establishment,) of the proposed MILITARY FUND, as early an insertion as you conveniently can; for the perusal and consideration of those Officers who feel any interest in the fate of my proposition, and particularly those at the Presidency, Barrackpore, and Dum Dum, whose opinions regarding the advantage of having a Meeting, I am now endeavouring to ascertain, by means of a Circular Letter.

They are requested to observe, that I suppose the whole number of Subscribers calculated upon, to be composed of unmarried Officers, and that therefore the grand total of cash must be considered as the very least sum that will be accumulated at the end of the eighteen months above mentioned, by the contributions of the specified number of Subscribers. The Fund will not of course begin to operate till all the Donations shall be actually collected, and as the Donors are at liberty to pay them either by eighteen monthly instalments, or at once, as may best suit them; we must presume that the former plan as being the most convenient for the majority will be the one most generally adopted, and that therefore, the whole amount of Donations cannot be in the hands of the Managers before the expiration of the before named period. I have not counted upon General Officers, Colonels, Superintending Surgeons, or Chaplains; and in enumerating the remaining ranks I have not been guided by the allowed number of Officers, but by that actually borne on the strength of corps, so that an increase rather than a diminution may be fairly expected.

There are, then, about 1,693 Officers (excluding those above named) at present in the Bengal Army, out of which number I have supposed that on the average about two thirds will subscribe.

Of Lieutenant Colonels, 81—say one-fourth will subscribe ..	20
Majors, 89—say one-third will subscribe ..	30
Captains, 337—say two-thirds will subscribe ..	245
Lieutenants, 840—say three-fourths will subscribe ..	630
Cornets and Ensigns, 48—say three-fourths will subscribe ..	36
Surgeons, 80—say two-thirds will subscribe ..	53
Assistant Surgeons, 188—say three-fourths will subscribe ..	141

Total of Officers 1693

Of Subscribers 1155

Amount of Funds, (without interest) at the end of 18 months.

DONATIONS

To be paid by 18 monthly instalments, or at once, as may best suit the Donor.

20 Lieutenant Colonels, at Rupees 635 0 each,	13,900 0
30 Majors, at Rupees 550 0 each,	16,500 0
245 Captains, at Rupees 332 8 each,	81,462 8
630 Lieutenants, at Rupees 200 0 each,	126,000 0
36 Cornets and Ensigns, at Rupees 167 8 each,	5,670 0
53 Surgeons, at Rupees 333 8 each,	17,624 8
141 Assistant Surgeons, at Rupees 200 0 each,	28,200 0
1155	Total Rupees 289,357 0

Subscriptions for 18 months.

20 Lieutenant Colonels, at Rupees 24 0 each monthly,	8,610 0
30 Majors, at Rupees 18 8 each monthly,	9,990 0
245 Captains, at Rupees 11 0 each monthly,	48,510 0
630 Lieutenants, at Rupees 6 8 each monthly,	73,710 0
36 Cornets and Ensigns, at Rupees 5 4 each monthly,	3,402 0
53 Surgeons, at Rupees 11 0 each monthly,	10,494 0
141 Assistant Surgeons, at Rupees 6 8 each monthly,	16,497 0

1155	Amount of Subscriptions for 18 months,	171,243 0
	Add Donations as above,	289,357 0

Grand Total at the end of 18 months, Rs. 460,600 0

Which with interest, at 6 per cent. per annum, will amount to at least, Rs. 500,000 0

Now of the above amount, there is not a Rupee contributed by a Married Officer, or by a Widower or Bachelor, paying as Married on account of Children; so that if my assumed number of Subscribers be greater than what the actual number will be (but to the Madras Fund there are more Contributors than the number I have calculated upon) still it may be fairly presumed, that the increased donations and Subscriptions, which the two last named classes of Officers will have to pay, will go a great way in making up for any probable deficiency in the amount of Subscribers which I have here supposed. I have

placed the first and second Lieutenants of Artillery in one class, but even if this should be an error, it will not materially reduce the whole amount, and can easily be rectified.

At the expiration then, of eighteen months the Fund will commence operating on a capital of 5 lacs of rupees, which at the rate of 6 per cent per annum, will give 30,000 rupees interest; a sum which in my humble opinion will be sufficient (and I conceive more than sufficient) to meet every demand that can be brought against it, agreeably to the usual number of casualties which will throw Pensioners on the Fund, and the cases of ill health which will require pecuniary assistance. If the above rates of Subscription be allowed to stand as the proportion for Bachelors, then the Pensions, aids, &c. will be as laid down in a former Letter to you, and in the one I am now circulating; and I conceive there is not the smallest difficulty in making out every calculation necessary for the purpose of establishing the Fund on a most sure and lasting basis.

The only thing that prevents me from making the attempt alone is the objection I have to incur so very great a responsibility as would in such a case inevitably fall upon me; and hence it is that I wished, and still wish, for a Meeting of Officers whereat a Committee (supposing the Plan itself to be approved of) of three or five Members should be chosen to frame all the necessary Rules and Regulations to be afterwards submitted to the army at large. For every undertaking of this nature which requires a conjunction, rather than a division of labour, as well as dispatch, I consider a small Committee in every respect preferable to a large one, which can neither be convened so frequently and conveniently, nor do so much when convened, as the other; and I therefore think that in the present case five Members should be the most that the Meeting ought to appoint for the purpose of drawing out the Regulations, &c.

If any other of your Correspondents would take the trouble of adding to the above calculations, or correcting them if requisite, I should feel obliged to him, provided the arrogance of his style or the unfairness of his mode of attack do not destroy the obligation; as they have already done in some instances; and for any opinions that may be privately conveyed to me, I shall be happy to make the fullest acknowledgment, as all my aim is to institute this Fund in a manner the least objectionable to all classes, as well as the most beneficial to the Army; for, as an Individual, I have just as little personal good to expect from it as any of those who may become its supporters.

I am, Sir, very obediently yours,

Calcutta, Dec. 13, 1819.

R. A. McNAGHTEN

* Besides this annual interest, there will be the monthly subscriptions amounting to about Rs. 9,500.

Journies to Tombuctoo.

(Translated from the French Papers before mentioned.)

Mr. Walcknaer has at length given to the world the account of two itinerary journies from Tripoli to Tombuctoo, written by Arabian or African travellers, and of which the Academy of Inscriptions has undertaken to give an account.

A Road Book is rather a dry subject, but a Road Book that conducts us from station to station, to Tombuctoo, this great commercial city of the centre of Northern Africa, cannot fail to be a very interesting object, the learned Academician can easily embellish by his learning a simple notice of very interesting details, so as to make them as agreeable as they must be useful to the public.

The frightful spectacle of the Great Desert, that land of death, that sky of brass, those winds of fire, those Moors, the only real Independants, who in their proud and sombre humour, can only live in regions inaccessible to civilization, laws, and arts, all this picture of Sahara has been much admired and applauded.

Monsieur Walcknaer has very judiciously opposed thereto the description of the careless and joyous Negroes, dancing all the night to the sound of their tambourines in the shade of their thick forests, on the borders of their magnificent rivers.

But the more judiciously and elegantly written this morceau is, the more it serves as a contradiction to what the Author sets out with asserting; for he commences by saying, that Geography being the Science of Space, had no other ornaments than exact calculations, which had prodigiously frightened the Public; yet in spite of all Academic definitions, of this "Science of Space," Mr. Walcknaer has contradicted his own assertion in the most brilliant manner, and shewn that in the hands of a man of genius and learning there is no subject however dry in its details that may not be made highly entertaining.

Original Poetry.

Poor maid of error! lovely was thy cheek,
And thy blue eye was eloquently bright,
Youth's bland emotions tenderly to speak,
And win the soul with its own vestal light,
But, ah! the spoiler came, thy peace to blast,
Ruthless to banish from thy breast content,
And thy fair hopes with darkness to o'ercast,
Marring the charms, but prized when innocent.
The rose of beauty wither'd on thy face,
And quench'd the ray, of rapture in thy eye;
Thy hectic look, and every faded grace,
Prove what thou 'dst hide, thy ceaseless misery
Poor maid of love and error! blighted tho' thou art,
To thee I'd gently pay the homage of the heart!

Calcutta, Dec. 7, 1819.

JANET.

LOCAL IMPRESSIONS.

Yes I have passed an hour of madness,
An hour of such delirious joy,
That not an age of grief and sadness,
The fond remembrance can destroy.
T was holy midnight, calm and still,
The moonbeam slept upon the hill,
'Beneath the shade of the Cypress tree,
I couched in wild expectancy.

She came, all doubting, trembling,—o'er the path she flew,
With lip, and cheek, and bosom,—pale as evening dew.

And to my arms she sprung and panted,
Quick as the new-caught Cuckoo dove;

And, o'er her as I hung enchanted,
I whisper'd—"Fly with me, my love!"

With me to live, with me to die,
In Love's unshackled liberty!"

Her bosom rose with hastier swell,
In agony it rose and fell,

Like the waves of stormy Ocean's billows,
Trembling thus in wild emotion.

Oh! Cease, she said, in this thy faith—could you enslave me?
Not thus,—clasp me, not thus,—Oh God!—in pity, spare me!"

Alone she stood, her tears fast falling,
In Joy's wild flow, bedew'd the sod,

For from a trial so appalling,
Spotless she stood! I thank my God!

There was but one cloud in the sky,
And it was white as maiden's breast,

On the cold moon! she raised her eye,
And whilst her soft warm lip I press'd,

"Yon solitary cloud" she said,
(And as she spoke, my bosom bled.)

"Yon snowy cloud, pure tho' it be,
Emblems my fault, my frailty,

"My ev'ry act and thought, till this—clandestine meeting given,
"Were holy, calm and passionless,—and pure as cloudless heaven!"

She speaks not now—again she spoke not,
But prone to earth, in death she fell,

My heart's throb ceased, but yet it broke not!
Without a groan I gazed—A spell

Bound every sense, save sight alone,
I was a bloodless, tearless stone!

The cloud smiled past the moon, whose ray,
Fell on her bosom as she lay.

Methought it heav'd!—it heav'd by Heaven!—could Fate such
bosoms sever?

She rose!—One kiss!—one last embrace!—we parted then
for ever!!!

T was in this very path I met her,
T was on this very spot we stood,

And oh! if ever I forget her,
May ev'ry hope of future good,

Of bliss hereafter—fortune, fame,
And ev'ry joy mankind can claim,

Fade from my grasp, as shadows flee;
May life's dull cup be filled by thee,

Thou loved one of my soul, and let—each deeper draught contain
The bitterest dregs of misery—and agonizing pain!

Bombay, Nov. 1819.

M. E.

THE NUN.

Hark! the long tolling of the convent bell
Recalls each sister to her lonely cell!
How deep and mournful is its lengthen'd sound,
Borne by the wind along the cloister'd ground!
Amidst the dismal groups that wander by,
The living emblems of mortality,
Observe yon Nun, whose pale and pensive mien
Betrays some secret grief, she thinks unseen;
Whose measur'd step, so mournful and so slow,
Bespeaks the silent anguish of her woe!
What various feelings agitate her breast,
As Bertha now retires in vain to rest!
Altho' the rose her faded cheek has fled,
Altho' her lips have lost their healthful red,
Still may you thro' each alter'd feature trace,
The charms that once adorn'd her lovely face;
Where beauty in its native lustre stray'd,
And love amidst a thousand dimples play'd.
Even now the feeling of her mild blue eye,
When rais'd in pray'r, she seeks her God on high!
Might wring compassion from a tyrant's heart,
And with its soft expression love impart.
The touch of grief, and not the wreck of years,
Through all the outline of her form appears;
Grief marks the wretched victim for his prey,
And mately triumphs o'er the sad decay!
Tis twice three years since first her lips pronounc'd
Those cruel vows, her heart in vain renounc'd;
A father's powerful mandate fix'd her doom
And plung'd her in a convent's dismal gloom!
A youth she lov'd, to wealth and rank unknown,
Whose birth was far inferior to her own:
She dar'd to meet her Leopold in the night,
And from her home to meditate a flight;
But ah! their secret plans too soon betray'd,
A father's rage o'ertook the trembling maid!
In vain she urg'd the plea of youthful love,
Her tears could not the frowning parent move,
Nor o'er his vengeance could her sighs prevail,
Since anger held, and pride o'erturn'd the scale.
And now, when mem'ry pictures to her mind
The world and all its joys she left behind,
Those cheerful scenes to which she bade adieu,
Her bosom sickens at the gloomy view.
Condemn'd to weat by sighs her grief alone,
Unheard, unpitied, on her couch of stone,
Condemn'd to linger out each sleepless night,
The form of Leopold hovering o'er her sight,
The shadow wanders whereso'er she goes,
The dear but hapless cause of all her woes.
And when in turn the early matins bell
Recalls each sister from her gloomy cell,
She tries in haste to stifle every sigh;
To brush each tear—drop from her moisten'd eye,
That from the abbess she may yet conceal,
Those sorrows which for ever she must feel!
For superstition in its law severe,
With language stern would chide the feeling tear,
Which trembles as she thinks on pleasures vain
On worldly scenes she ne'er can join again,
Ah Bertha! still for ever in your breast
Will the dear image of your Leopold rest!
Believe not that the worship you profess,
Commands you, fancy's wand'rings to suppress!
For in Religion's dictates you'll not find,
One rule that fetters thus the human mind;
No law can it of liberty deprive—
If thought be sacrifice—'twere guilt to live!

Calcutta, Dec. 12, 1819.

EUMATHES.

(From the Arabic.)

Not always wealth, not always force
A splendid destiny commands;
The lordly vulture gnaws the corse
That rots upon yon barren sands.

Nor want, nor weakness still conspires
To bind us to a sordid state;
The fly that with a touch expires
Sips honey from the royal plate.